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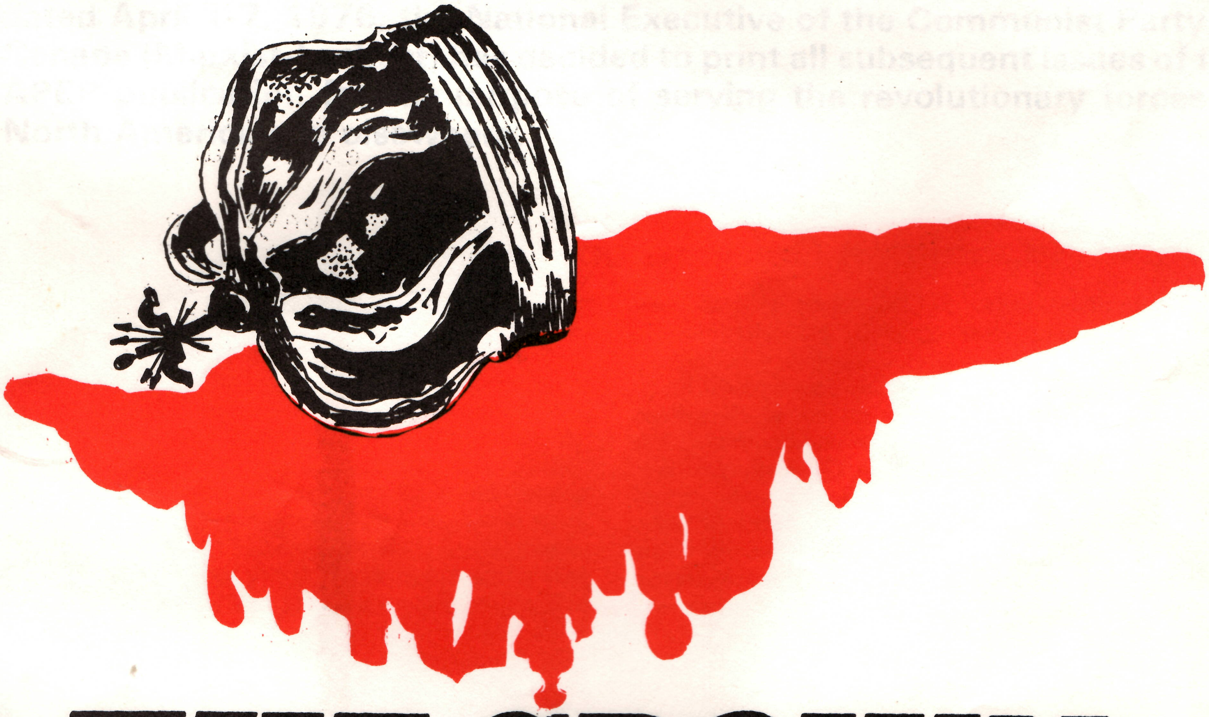

THE CROWN: MURDERER

PRO-CONVENTION

ACTIONS
MEETINGS
DECLARATIONS

THE CROWN: MURDERER

Beginning with issue number 78 of "People's Spain Press Agency" dated April 1-7, 1976, the National Executive of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) has decided to print all subsequent issues of the APEP publication for the purpose of serving the revolutionary forces in North America and elsewhere.

PEOPLE'S SPAIN PRESS AGENCY (A.P.E.P.)
NO 82

Note to the Reader

As of issue No. 81, **A.P.E.P.** will be published by CUSPE (United Solidarity Committee with the Peoples of Spain), a French organisation supporting the peoples of Spain in their struggle against fascism, imperialism and for the Democratic Federated Popular Republic. CUPSE has taken as its main tasks the organising of political and material solidarity with the Spanish anti-fascist fighters and dissemination of information to the people of France on what is happening in Spain. The French bourgeois press, in collaboration with the monarcho-fascist regime ruling in Spain, maintains silence about, or minimizes the extent of, the popular true anti-fascists suffer, while trying to ram down the throats of the French people the thoroughly anti-people policies of Franco's successors. In the present situation, this information is of the nature of real counter-information.

By taking up the publication of **A.P.E.P.** every week CUSPE hopes to better fulfill the task of keeping the people of France informed as well as carry out its duty to organise solidarity with the struggling peoples of Spain.

Communique of CUSPE

Forty-five years ago the will of the peoples of Spain was freely expressed in the municipal elections which overthrew the monarchy and proclaimed the Republic.

...Today the will of the peoples of Spain is also to overthrow the monarchy — a franquist monarchy — and to establish a genuine popular Republic.

This will is being expressed through the "Republican Convention" which is soon to be convened... This will is also being expressed in the mass struggles against the fascist monarchy ... Juan Carlos is defending himself by using the same weapons as Franco: increasingly violent repression — 11 deaths in two months in Spain. Prison sentences of up to 120 years, torture...

In this context the government of France is trumpeting the "Liberalisation" of a monarchy which it champions and supports especially through extremely close police collaboration:

— Poniatowski (French Interior Minister — transl.) puts Basque political refugees under house arrest.

— Poniatowski bans FRAP in France. This measure constitutes a triple threat:

— a threat against Spanish anti-fascists seeking refuge in France
— a threat against freedom of speech in France
— a threat against the struggle for a Republic in Spain

The entire press has built up a wall of silence around this measure. That is why it is the task of all of us, democrats and anti-fascists, to get mobilized to:

Denounce the collaboration between Ponia and Fraga.

Proclaim our solidarity with the struggling peoples of Spain.

DOWN WITH THE MONARCHY!
LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC!

Protests Against the Ban on FRAP in France

The France-Spain committee in Strasbourg unfolded a broad range of activities against the ban on FRAP. Leaflets were distributed in the markets and universities. These leaflets were supported by foreign organisations in France. In Copenhagen a solidarity meeting with FRAP sent a message to the French Embassy to protest against the measure.

For the Republican Convention of the Peoples of Spain

In the April 11 issue of **Vanguardia Obrera,** Julio Calafat, reflecting the opinion of the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist), wrote:

"It was really possible! Despite the sceptics who denied the possibility of bringing together Republicans to reach serious agreements on unity of action, the Republican Conference has just been held and our Party attended it... The Conference was held on the basis of two essential points which permit the unity of action of **all** anti-fascists and patriots, regardless of their ideology and their political views: the struggle for the Republic against the monarchy and the struggle for national independence. These two struggles are inseparable, you cannot think of one without the other...

We must reach the point where the **Convention** represents the peoples of Spain and not some parties or individuals...

As far as our Party is concerned, we will not spare any effort, we will fear no sacrifice. We solemnly commit ourselves — as we did in 1964 — to be the most ardent fighters for the republican ideal. And let those who are more royalist than the king not make any mistake: we support a Federated Popular Republic, clearly socialist in content; but today, when the task is to overthrow the monarchy of Juan Carlos, we do not make this into a "sine qua non" for unity with all those who are fighting for the Republic, even if they support a different content...

On the other hand, we are convinced that it is the masses themselves who, in the course of the struggle against the monarchy and for the Republic, will mark out the camps and the options. This feeling was shared by all those who attended the Conference and was concretized in the Republican Appeal."

Republica Espânola, the organ of Accion Republicana Democratica Espanola (ARDE) — an organisation represented at the Republican Conference held last April 3 and 4 — has published in its last issue an article by Juan Valencia which read in part: "It is puerile to think that the Spanish people and the Republicans in exile can have any confidence in the hypocritical words of former collaborators in the massacre who are today accomplices. Their statements about democratization are words without meaning to which they themselves give the lie through their contradictions and their actions...

As for the Spanish Republican exiles, Mr. Areilza knows very well the feeling of satisfaction and pride in duty carried out that they have for having upheld and continuing to uphold a clear position and a banner representing legitimacy, freedom and the right of the Spanish people to express their will about the political system, a will which we will respect, whatever its verdict may be. However, we will not accept the imposition of a regime of continuity which denies the most elementary human rights nor shall we ever give up our struggle as long as Spain does not shine with truth and freedom, no matter what the threats."

The Popular Unions of the Countryside (UPC) in the April issue of their organ **The Countryside in Struggle** published on the front page an "Appeal to the Workers in the Countryside" in which, after an analysis of the situation of the peasantry under the monarchy, it is stated:

"That is why the UPC calls on all farm workers and farmers to unite in the preparation of the Republican Convention of the Peoples of Spain, to form Republican assemblies and committees of rural workers, to disseminate amongst the teams of farm workers and unemployed workers and farmers to unite in the preparation of the Republican Convention of the Peoples of Spain, to form republican assemblies and committees of rural workers, to disseminate amongst the teams of farm workers and unemployed workers the Appeal for the **Republic,** to raise high the Republican banner in the fields and in the villages of Spain, to organise meetings of support for the Republican Convention, so that our voice, the voice of the countryside, is heard loud and clear in defence of the Republic.

LONG LIVE THE WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE!

LAND FOR THOSE WHO WORK IT!
LONG LIVE THE FEDERATED POPULAR REPUBLIC!
LONG LIVE FRAP!

News from most of the regions and nationalities indicate that the **Republican Appeal to the Peoples of Spain** has begun to be widely disseminated. The same thing is happening throughout Europe amongst Spanish emigrees, as well as in Latin America amongst the groups of political exiles.

The **Republican Conference** created reverberations in the national and international press. The **BBC** and **Radio France Internationale** reported at length the holding of the Conference. The **Agence France Presse** noted the contrast between the Republican Conference and the "Democratic Co-ordination" which does not declare itself in favour of the Republic. In its Latin American service, **AFP** related that "its intention was to make clear an anti-monarchic presence, seeing as the 'Co-ordination' indicated that the end of the monarchy was not its primary concern." The **Quotidien de Paris** said: "This movement proposes to unite all those who deem that the (abolition of) the monarchy is the prerequisite for restoration of liberty." **Cambio 16,** the **Reuter News Agency, Le Figaro, L'Humanité Rouge** and other media also recorded the holding of the Conference and its objectives.

From **Vanguardia Obrera** No 132 we quote the following paragraphs of the article "Events of April 14":

"...This April 14, 1976, we Spanish Marxist-Leninists stand face to face with a giant historical responsibility. Decades of struggles and the sacrifices of several generations of Spaniards must be taken up by us... This situation, which demonstrates our vanguard role within the Republican movement, is the result of a radicalisation to the left of the Spanish Republican movement, a change which is brought about by the very evolution of the political situation. In its desperate attempt to shore up the rotten monarchic solution, the dictatorship has been obliged to make use of all its more or less hidden agents, forcing them to openly disavow the Republic and to form a bloc around the bloody throne of the "puppet"... In this situation the role of our Party is decisive. We have been able to adopt political measures so that the danger of isolation of the thorough going Republicans resulting from the demarcation of camps has been averted: a dignified isolation but one which would have prevented them from influencing the present political situation."

April 14: Day of the Republic

It is impossible to hide what is going on — Here is what the **Gaceta Ilustrada** said, evidently quite worried: "We are faced with a huge campaign orchestrated by subversive forces who are trying to undo the system. The propaganda in the form of clandestine leaflets which are being distributed in the hundreds of thousands does not speak of harmony or reconciliation. The nicest thing you can find in these leaflets is "criminal monarchy"... On April 14 an attempt is being made to organise Republican meetings... Big Republican demonstrations are being preached. The central thesis is that there is no other way to democracy than through the Republic."

Madrid in red, yellow and violet — On the 14th, the **Agency Logos** announced according to the DGS, that "the situation is completely normal". Already on the 15th, **Informaciones** said: "Yesterday normalcy was the dominant note...even though some flags and placards were pulled down." Since the beginning of April the Republican activity has been enormous. New information reaching our bureau on the demonstration of April 3 reported 30,000 people in the streets; talk of Republican flags at the head of thousands of demonstrators in Vallecas Plaza de las Cibeles, Gal Pardinas Street, Plaza de Roma (in Madrid) and solgans (taken up by thousands of people) such as: **Government of Murderers, The People Will Judge You!, Down with the Monarchy, Long Live the Republic!** The big banks and stores belonging to the oligarchy and Yankee imperialism were attacked with Molotov cocktails. The Madrid Committee of FRAP, the Provincial Committee of OSO (Workers' Opposition Organisation) and the Spanish Communist Youth (Marxist-Leninist) gave the call to form everywhere struggle committees for the Republic and tens of thousands of copies of the appeal were distributed. The FEDEM (Federation of Democratic High School Students) put up posters in dozens of high schools, calling for the formation of Republican Assemblies of High School Students on April 14th.

The bulletin **Republica** for the month of March is published by the Committees of FRAP.

Dozens of Republican flags and hundreds of Republican posters appeared in the city, as well as banners (as at the University). In the village of Villaviciosa de Odon, where Julio Alvarez del Vayo the last president of FRAP was born, a ceremony was held in his memory, and in honour of the 45th anniversary of the Republic.

Appeals for April 14th were distributed in many areas of Madrid (San Blas, Simancas, Ventas, La Elipa...). On April 14th Republican flags were raised in many of these areas despite the use of the police force, as in Vallecas for example. In the Madrid subway banners appeared in favour of the Republic. Last minute news indicates that the general strike in the construction industry has already begun with 10,000 strikers on April 21st.

Actions in Saragossa — On April 7th the FUDE (Spanish Democratic University Federation) calls on the students to fight for the Republic, putting up posters in the Faculties of Law, Arts and Medicine as well as in the Teachers' College. Once more these were the only posters taken down by the fascists.

On April 14th, the anniversary of the Spanish Republic, a FRAP commando placed a Republican flag on a public bus as it was driving through the centre of the city, while numerous workers and residents of the area looked on.

In Saragossa as well as in other cities of Aragon many banners appeared in favour of the Republic and against the king, repression, etc...

In Valladolid, Leon, Salamanca and other places in Castile — the appeal of the Regional Committee of the CPS(M-L) was distributed. In Valladolid, dozens of Republican flags and banners appeared. A brochure published by FRAP and other Republicans was disseminated. It contained the history of the Second Republic in Castille and Leon. In the town of Leon a large Republican flag, bearing the badge of FRAP and placed on a downtown building, flew for several hours.

Seville "receives" the puppet Juan Carlos — The FRAP Committee in the town of Seville, as soon as the news of the visit was known, disseminated an "Appeal to the people of Seville to demonstrate their hatred for the monarchy and support the Republic on the 28th at noon in the Gardens of Maria Cristina." On that day, more than 8,000 people gathered: barricades, injured policemen, burning of the fascist flags, neutralisation of the Carrilliste pickets who were talking with the police and attacking the most revolutionary groups etc. CPS(M-L) also published an appeal against the visit.

During the major textile strike in **Alicante** which has been going on since the beginning of April, the **Information Bulletin** No 4 of OSO said: "General strike on April 14th (45th anniversary of the Second Republic). This is extremely important so that the struggle of the textile workers does not remain isolated but spreads to the steel workers, construction workers, paper workers etc... This day will be celebrated all over Spain with great fervour. We are fighting for the Federated Popular Republic led by the working and peasant masses, but at present, the most important thing is the **Republic . Long Live the Republican Convention!** Alcoy, April 11, 1976."

FRAP carried out major agitational work for the Republic around the date of April 14th in the provinces of **Barcelona, Biscay and Asturias.**

On April 12th, Republican flags appeared in different areas of **Palma de Majorca** and thousands of posters throughout the city. From **Valencia** fragmentary news indicates that Republican flags were raised.

Celebration of "Aberri Eguna" (Day of the Fatherland in the Basque country) — As was to be expected if its content were truly Basque and fighting, the "Aberri Eguna" was betrayed by the Carrillo group and the Workers' Commissions which it controls, by the USO and other reformists and by the Basque reactionaries. In spite of this, the "Aberri Eguna" was a great success for the Basque people. Pamplona was literally covered in leaflets and the walls covered with posters and banners. Many Basque flags were raised. A line of cops, machine guns in hand, made a circle 60 km outside the city of Pamplona to prevent demonstrators from arriving. There were bulldozers to tear down barricades and fire trucks at all major intersections of the city. 4000 cops came as reinforcements. Despite all this, at noon groups of demonstrators began to form in the Plaza del Castillo and in the surrounding area. There were violent clashes with the police for several hours. The police used rubber bullets.

Throughout Euskadi dozens and dozens of Basque flags were raised. The grave of Anel Otaegui at Nuarbe was covered with thousands of flowers.

Great support from the UDP and the people of Portugal — On April 18 the UDP (the Democratic Popular Union of Portugal) and FRAP convened a huge meeting in the Sports Stadium of **Lisbon** with 10,000 people in attendance, among them thousands of Spaniards, in an atmosphere of indescribable enthusiasm. The speakers were a representative of the UDP, Constantino Alvarez and José Atiensa representing FRAP in the name of the Republican Conference. A very warm message from FPOLISARIO was read out.

On April 17, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Republic, a Song Festival of the Iberian Peoples was held in **Oporto.** Some 4000 people attended the five-hour long festival which was opened with a speech by Constantino Alvarez. The participants were: Pedro Faura for Castille (who finised with a song in hommage to the five heroes murdered on September 27 — which was continually interrupted by applause — and with a song in hommage to the dead of Vitoria), Miro Casabella for Galicia (who gave a rendition of many songs about the struggles, the history and the aspirations of the people of Galicia), as well as the groups "University Theatre of Oporto" and "GAC Voices in Struggle" for Portugal. A large number of Spaniards, especially Galicians, were present.

There was also a press conference and an exhibition of drawing held by FRAP in Lisbon.

Mobilisation on behalf of the Republic in Sweden — In Goteborg a campaign has been going on since mid-March which culminated on April 14 with a meeting in commemoration of the Republic which 400 people attended. More than 20 FRAP support committees organised different demonstrations throughout Sweden, but as yet we do not have any information on these.

In Brussels — On April 16, a meeting to commemorate the Republic. A working committee is formed there with the task of organising the participation of emigrees in Belgium in the forthcoming Convention. A FRAP representative spoke at the meeting and many independent Republicans participated in organising it. The meeting was chaired by Mme Salina, a great steeled resistance fighter of the Spanish people.

In **France** — In **Paris,** the week of the Republic around April 14th was celebrated in the general framework of preparing for the Republican Convention. Several meetings at the University and other university centres. Large attendance by Spaniards who had come to Paris during the holiday and of whom many undertook to form Republican Committees in their place of origin. Showing of revolutionary films, poster exhibitions, recitals and Republican meetings.

In **Vennissieux** — We have been informed that a meeting organised in this town on April 4 by the Carrilliste group was converted into a Republican meeting thanks to the presence of members and supporters of FRAP. A FRAP statement was read out and warmly applauded and a number of copies of **Vanguardia Obrera** were sold. CUSPE published on the occasion of April 14 a statement of support for the struggle for the Republic. This statement was also read out during the intermission of the staging on April 14 of the play by Armand Gatti.

Preparation for Republican Days on May 1 and 2

The Permanent Committee of FRAP is launching an appeal to turn May 1 and 2 into days of struggle for the Republic, against the monarchy continuing the policy of franquism and against Yankee imperialism in Spain. The appeal reads in part:

...At the Republican Conference which took place at the beginning of April, the basis was laid for creating a broad popular unity in struggle for the Republic and against the monarchy and the initiative was taken to convene a **Republican Convention of the Peoples of Spain...**"

"...We call for the formation of Republican Assemblies in every city, working class area, village, factory, university, high school and everywhere. These Republican Assemblies, formed in struggle and in action, must use every method to increase unity and intensify struggle around the flag of the Republic, around the people's flag which on May 1 and 2 must be raised in every town and in every village of Spain..."

We have received **a communiqué from CPS(M-L)** which puts forward the same view, reading in part:

"...No worker can stand aside from a question so decisive as the struggle for the **Republic** and against the monarchy of Juan Carlos. The working class and all the peoples of different nationalities of Spain are without any doubt anti-monarchists. It is a question of organising the struggle everywhere to put an end once and for all to reaction, fascism andYankee domination, embodied today in the monarchy of puppet Juan Carlos, Franco's and the Yankees' creature!

The Workers' Offensive Continues

The strike movement of the first half of April is characterised by:

1. The persistence of unlimited strikes which have been going on for two months, such as the strike of the 8000 workers in three plants in Madrid, Seville and Barcelona belonging to ROCA, and the strike at Michelin in its three plants in Lasarte, Valladolid and Burgos which began on February 19.

2. The spreading of these strikes to the national level: which is the case with the strike of the telephone workers (30,000 strikers). The strike was launched at the beginning of April (as a continuation of the struggle in January) to establish a minimum wage-level and spread to Madrid, Barcelona, Basque Country, Navarre, Asturias, Canary Islands, Valencia Country, Saragossa etc. It is also the case with the 15,000 strikers at the **Naval Shipyards** against personnel cutbacks and massive layoffs and to make temporary contracts permanent ones. The strike spread to the shipyards at Olaveaga (Biscay) and the plants in Cadiz and Matagorda. On the 9th a general strike took place in which the workers at Bazan in San Fernando and in San Carlos, at CASA (an aeronautics plant) and at other plants participated. Also a general strike in the **textile industry** (more than 10,000 strikers) in Alcoy and surrounding areas; in the **metal-working industry** and **graphic arts** in Biscay, with more than 15,000 strikers; in the **glass** and **ceramic industries** in Asturia; also a strike by 10,000 **taxi drivers** in Barcelona, etc.

3. Broad solidarity movement aiming at struggle against all forms of repression: firings, layoffs, arrests, and for wage increases of between 6000 and 8000 pesetas, in opposition to the proposals of the owners, the CNS (the vertical trade unions) and of the government.

4. The methods of trade union struggle used:

— Massive and daily holding of meetings to plan and ordinate the strike.

— Increasing activity of picketing and defence of the strike by fighting against "scabs" and the increasingly brutal attacks by the police.

— Demonstrations, meetings, occupations of plants by the strikers with the co-operation of the masses.

— Support of other workers and of the population at large; material support given to strikers so that the unlimited strikes can continue, through the building of resistance funds. collections and other methods.

The revolutionary trade union methods are developing outside the vertical trade union and are implemented against the reformist line of "negotiations" and "trade union pacts" with the CNS.

5. Increased repression by the owners and the police. Here are some incomplete figures:

Fired

2,000 fired at ASTANO. a naval construction company
164 fired at MICHELIN

Lay Offs

2,000 at ASTANO
5,423 in the metal-working industry in Biscay
2,114 at MARCONI
45 at the telephone company
— Legal proceedings against all the trade union delegates at MICHELIN

Police Activities

Expulsion of workers occupying factories, brutal breaking up of meetings, arrest of 8 workers at MICHELIN who had been on hunger strike for three days.

Our estimate is that 150,000 workers were on strike in the first half of April. Add to the above list of strikes the strike by 1,000 farm workers in the province of Sevill. Furthermore, there were several demonstrations by the unemployed in Barcelona during the "Week against Unemployment" on the 9th and the 12th. These were marked by police violence and the arrest of several unemployed workers.

Chronicle of a Strike: The General Strike by Textile Workers in the Alcoy Region

On March 31: the workers went on strike against the contract signed in Madrid by the management and the vertical trade union and to support their demands. As a result of the scope of the strike, the management laid off 7,000 workers at the beginning of April.

On April 5: the textile committee of the OSO (Workers' Opposition Organisation) a member of FRAP, disseminated the **Textile Information Bulletin,** No. 2, which gave several slogans: unlimited strike, reinforcements of assemblies and strike pickets, building of resistance funds, direct negotiations with the company, resignation of the trade union delegates of the vertical union, no reprisals, no firings, no arrests.

On April 8: the strike became practically general (about 12,000 strikers). During a general meeting the workers forced a delegate of the CNS to resign and rejected the splittist proposals of other delegates.

On April 9: OSO's **Information Bulletin,** No. 3 appeared, insisting that unity in struggle should be maintained and demanding full payment for the strike days. It warned the workers against fascist provocations.

On April 10: faced with the use of the revolutionary trade union path, the outdistancing of the reformist line and the agitational campaign for a Republican April 14th, the fascist repression intensified. In the morning, **several hundred women strikers demonstrated** in the market and called on the people to support them. They were attacked by the police. A plain clothes cop went so far as to attack an old woman who was not even part of the demonstration. The Guardia Civil did not even stop at charging into children and there were about ten injured people and four women arrested.

In Banyeres 6000 strikers were laid off until the 26th.

On April 11: an operation to intimidate the people of Alcoy was unfolded, 20 people were arrested "for having participated in illegal assemblies".

On April 12: the total general strike continues despite the repression and the lies of the press announcing its end and despite the reformist strikebreakers who talk about a "trade union rupture" but who cling to their positions as CNS delegates.

Other News

French Police Surveillance of Political Refugees from Basque Country

In Hendaye, St-Jean de Luz, Biarrutz and Bayonne, a wave of raids, check-ups and other police measures occurred. Dozens of refugees were interrogated. Many of them were freed under surveillance, while 13 were deported to the Island of Yeu. According to **Politique Hebdo,** the Spanish police collaborated in these operations and were authorised to penetrate into French territory. The Spanish press commented: "There has not been a similar operation since the Second World War. Mr. Poniatowski gave into the demands of his Spanish colleague."

"The contacts between Poniatowski and Fraga have given rise to a collaboration intended to prevent ETA from using the other side of the Pyrenees as a base for its operations. There has been close co-operation for many years."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Last minute news indicates that in Madrid, OSO has launched an appeal for a **general strike in the construction industry** for the last week of April, and that in major cities mass demonstrations are planned for the first of May. Echoing the broad patriotic activity which is going on throughout the country, the newspaper **Informaciones** declared that "Extremist groups are planning to whip up workers' agitation for this date. The government is using all means to try and prevent a disturbance of public order on the first of May this year."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On April 4: there were demonstrations for the freedom of political prisoners in **Pamplona, Bilbao** and **Vitoria.** Thousands of people took part in them despite the fact that the demonstrations were banned by the police.

Long Live the Struggle of FPOLISARIO

"Neither Bombs Nor Napalm Will Ever Make Us Kneel Down"

This sentence shows the unbreakable will of the Saharan people whose fight since the proclamation of the independence of the RASD has widened. During the first two weeks of March, the Moroccan invaders suffered 162 dead: 354 wounded and serious losses of military equipment. The chief of the occupation army, Colonel Dlimi, was even wounded. The invaders were defeated at Smara, Jdiria and Haouza. They are continually being harassed by the guerrilla army and forced to bring in supplies by air lift. Having received large quantities of material from the imperialists, Hassan chose the Nazi tactics which were perfected by the Yankees in Viet Nam: forget about the military targets in order to concentrate the napalm and phosphorous bombing of civilian refugee camps. Thus the camps of Tifarit, Amgala, Bir Lahlou and Oum-Dreiga were bombed. In Oum-Dreiga, where there were 25,000 people, there were hundreds of dead and 7,000 wounded. Finally this week, the Moroccans concentrated 15,000 men to napalm bomb and then besiege the camp of El Guelta, the last large concentration of refugees. The International Red Cross bore witness to the fact that after these bombings the number of Saharan refugees in Algeria increased from 20,000 to 45,000. But napalm will never wipe out the Saharan people. For example, the attack on El Guelta cost the Moroccans heavy losses in men and material. At the same time, the guerrilla fighters of FPOLISARIO laid many ambushes for the invaders, destroying the transformers in Bu-Craa and the train from Zaouarate. The struggle continues, supported by an ever growing number of anti-imperialist countries and organisations.

The Solidarity of the Spanish People With the Saharan People

The Algerian newspaper **El Moudjahid** recently published a report about Spanish nurses, political refugees and members of FRAP, and their work in the refugee camps of the Sahara.

An exhibition of support for the Saharan people was held at the Antonio Machado Bookstore in Madrid. Two groups of graphic artists organised an exhibition denouncing Yankee imperialism and Moroccan and Mauritanian expansionism. Many people visited the exhibition and collections were taken in solidarity with the FPOLISARIO.

On February 23 there was demonstration of 2,500 people in front of the Moroccan consulate in Barcelona to shouts of: **Cancel the Tripartite Agreement!, Long Live the Saharan Republic!, Yankees out of Spain!, Dissolve the repressive organisations!**

On the occasion of Areilza's visit in Denmark, FRAP organised a demonstration in Copenhagen with banners of FPOLISARIO.

After the proclamation of the RASD, FUDE put up posters in several faculties in Barcelona, reproducing the message of FRAP to the new Republic.

On March 8 there was a solidarity meeting in Toulouse with the Saharan people, organised on the initiative of several French organisations and of FRAP. A group of about 40 Moroccan chauvinists tried to sabotage the meeting but they were rebuffed and expelled from the meeting.

FRAP Throughout the World

Joint Declaration of the Democratic Popular Union (UDP) of Portugal and of FRAP

On the 17th of last April, a delegation of the Permanent Commission of the National Council of the UDP and a delegation of the Permanent Committee of FRAP issued the following joint declaration in Lisbon:

"...Held in a spirit of deep friendship, camaraderie and fighting spirit, this fraternal meeting allowed the two delegations to exchange their views and experience on the revolutionary struggles in Portugal and Spain and on the activities of the UDP and of FRAP amongst the masses of our two brother peoples.

"The UDP and FRAP categorically declare their opposition to the two big aggressive military blocks; to foreign military bases and the threatening presence of the Yankee and Russian fleets on the seas of the world.

"In their respective countries, the UDP and FRAP are the most resolute fighters for independence, national sovereignty and non-alignment with either of the two imperialist blocks.

"The UDP and FRAP declare their full solidarity with FPOLISARIO and the government of the RASD, the legitimate expression of the revolutionary will of the courageous Saharan people to win victory over the reactionary troops of Morocco and Mauritania and of its determination to win freedom and independence.

"The UDP considers as its own victories the advance of the revolutioary struggle of the brother peoples of Spain. The UDP warmly hails FRAP for its revolutionary courage in its task of leading the oppressed and exploited masses of the peoples of Spain, sparing no effort in its struggle for the Republic, freedom and national independence, to achieve the broadest alliance of forces, including Republicans, socialists, Marxist-Leninists, trade unionists, mass organisations and personalities in full unity under the banner of the **Republican Convention of the Peoples of Spain.**

"The UDP and FRAP solemnly declare that the sovereign destiny of Portugal and Spain, the conquest and the defence of their national independence, are indissolubly linked to the countries and nations of the Third World, to the closest relations of friendship and co-operation, on an equal footing, and of mutual respect, with the OAU, with the Arab countries, in particular Algeria and Mozambique, with the Peoples Republics of China and Albania. This is the sole foreign policy which can ensure genuine national independence for Spain and Portugal."

FRAP's Presence in Belgium and Germany

The journalist Eliseo Bayo wrote in a series of articles devoted to Spanish emigrees in Europe that "FRAP is leading opposition groups in Germany and that at present it is the 'star' in Belgium, constantly increasing its numbers." He writes that if "the opposition politicians who fill up the luxury hotels and the conference rooms in Brussels made any real contact with the emigrees they would find a convincing explanation for the meagre results of their efforts"

JUAN CARLOS: MURDERER

Latest Figures on the Repression by the Fascist Monarch of Juan Carlos

Introduction

Last March 30, fascist Fraga declared to the **Giornale d'Italia:** "The possibility of an amnesty does not exist, because there are no reasons for one. The peoples of Spain knew this and knowing it they expected nothing from the enemy. Whatever we need, we will get it through struggle."

The monarchy of Juan Carlos not only maintains itself with the same repression as Franco, **but it has increased it.** In the first quarter of 1976 the number of arrests has surpassed the total for all 1975. The Public Order Tribunal (TOP) has opened 721 cases or 35% more than in the same period of the previous year.

Since mid-February there have been 8 murders by the police in Vitoria, Elche and Barcelona. To these must be added the death of Oriol Sole, one of the escapees from the prison of Segovia, Felipe Juarez, shot to death at a highway checkpoint in Zarauz, and a suspected ETA militant near Bidasoa on April 19. Eleven murders in less than 3 months. There have also been hundreds wounded by bullets or police clubs, including most recently José Manuel Tararido last April 13, in Sestao, three of the prisoners who escaped from prison in Segovia and two others near Bidasoa and Algorta.

During the month of April alone there were more than 1500 arrests: hundreds in the Basque Country, more than 100 the day of the "Aberri Eguan", 200 on the third in Madrid, and hundreds of others in the demonstrations held in Barcelona, Pamplona, Vitoria, the peasants of Jerez de la Frontera, workers at Torrejon de Ardoz etc. etc. Everywhere there are new political prisoners: 27 in Pamplona, 7 in Cadiz, 21 in Biscay, 11 in Madrid etc.

The police operation held in Euskadi was personally led by Fraga and the list of people tortured is already very long. Units of the army and the COE (the anti-guerrilla committees) were deployed all along the border, reinforcing the thousands of Guardia Civil to chase the political prisoners who escaped from Segovia.

Fascist gangs collaborated with the police, attacking personalities and anti-fascists in different centres (69 attacks against bookstores in the last few months) and trying to sow terror. Hundreds of lectures as well as cultural and artistic shows have been banned (in the past two months the singer Luis Llach has had 11 of his recitals banned).

That is the monarchy of Juan Carlos — Franco II. We are publishing only a few of the many reports which are coming in all the time. The crown of the Bourgons — today as ever — is covered in blood. Blood and terror are the true face of the puppet Juan Carlos.

Trial Against the People — Death Penalty soon to be Asked For

Fernando Proenza Gonzalez, waiter, 28 years of age, was arrested by the Guardia Civil last March 7 and was taken immediately to the Headquarters of the Guardia Civil in Madrid. He was kept there 7 days during which time he was brutally tortured. Hung by the wrists from the ceiling, he was beaten with sticks. Later he was undressed completely and led to a "shower", a huge tub of freezing water in which he was submerged several times until he was at the point of drowning.

Fernando Proenza had already been arrested during the May First demonstrations in Madrid. This time he has been accused of participating with Ramon Garcia Sanz and Jose Luis Sanchez Bravo (murdered on September 27, 1975) in the execution of a lieutenant of the Guardia Civil. For this he comes under the "sumarisimo 1/75" and any time now it is expected that the death penalty will be asked for in his case with a new farce of a "military tribunal".

Fernando Proenza, who denies having participated in the execution of the policeman, was taken after 7 days of torture to the Red Cross of Cuatro Caminos and thence to Carabanchel prison where he remained until March 26 without ever being formally admited there. On the day the judge visited him, he announced the death penalty by saying "You know what they're going to ask for you".

Let's not forget that young Manuel Garcia Benito is in very similar circumstances: he is accused of being a member of FRAP and of having participated in the executions of members of the repressive forces which took place on October 1, 1975. Despite the secret proceedings, it is clear that here too the death penalty will be asked for.

The "May 73" Defendants

From Madrid we learn of an imminent April trial for those of "sumario 634/73" amongst whom are included the prisoners of the May First 1973 demonstration held at Anton Martin and called by FRAP. (See below for the list of prisoners).

The last five prisoners are at present in Carabanchel prison from where they sent an "Appeal to national and international public opinion, to all democrats and anti-fascists" from which we print the following passages:

"We have been brutally tortured in the offices of the DGS (the political police) and sometimes we have even been taken out of the prison for new torture sessions. Both at the DGS and in prison we have been refused all medical aid.

"Having stayed three months at the beck and call of the military authorities, we were then passed on to the TOP. After one and a half years in prison come the requests for sentences of 21 years for terrorism...

"Today in the month of March 1976, we have still not been tried, although it is possible that the trial may take place next month.

"Our trial is going to take place at a time when nothing has changed in the form of government. We were arrested while Franco was alive, and we are going to be put on trial after Franco's death, with an imposed monarchy and a government which calls itself "reformist". Has anything changed for us young political prisoners of the Franco era? Absolutely nothing. The prisons are full and the demonstrations by the people are still being brutally repressed (Elda, Tarragona, Vitoria, Basauri...).

"For all these reasons we are addressing ourselves to you so that you may raise your voice against arbitrariness and repression. We are conscious that only struggle can stay the hand of the regime."

			Sentence Asked For
M. Luisa Manchado Torres	17 years old	high school student	7 years
Paloma del Hoyo Sevilla	17 years old	architecture student	7 years
M. Carmen Lopez Millan	17 years old	High school student	7 years
Manuel Zamora Martin	17 years old	high school student	7 years
Candida Ballesteros	29 years old	employee	4 years
Juan Jose Pecos Sanchez	29 years old	TV technician	4 years
Fernando Romero Galan	20 years old	journalism student	21 years
Juan Jose Arregui Mendia	20 years old	architecture student	21 years
Mariano Mancheno Segarra	20 years old	medical student	21 years
Antonio Pascual Gil	19 years old	technician	21 years
J. Antonio Melendez Barbado	18 years old	technician	21 years
M. Luz de la Piedad Cordoba	18 years old	High school student	21 years
Jose Luis Luengo Velasco	20 years old	medical student	21 years
M. Dolores Vall Caballero	22 years old	nurse	21 years
Juan Jose Casabella Lopez	22 years old	architecture student	21 years
Miguel Esteban Sanz	20 years old	metal worker Standard ITT	21 years
M. Carmen Lopez Rodriguz	18 years old	high school student	21 years
Jose Luis Jimenez Yubero	18 years old	science student	21 years
Gerardo Blazquez Villaluenga	23 years old	piano student	21 years
Juan Diaz Farinas	20 years old	industry student	21 years
Julian Infantes Garcia	18 years old	metal worker	21 years
Rafael Gordillo Chalons	18 years old	fine arts student	21 years

Trial Against FRAP Members in the Valencia Country

A broad campaign of solidarity with Beatriz Rodriguez, Jose Gares Crespo, Daniel Panisello, for whom the prosecution has asked sentences of 110 years each, Rafael Pellicer — 75 years — and with others for whom the prosecution has asked sentences of 15 years, was being waged by the United Solidarity Fund (FUS). A meeting of 3,000 students expressed their solidarity with the prisoners.

From Geneva, Denis Payot, President of the Swiss League of Human Rights, signed an open letter in which, having reviewed the inhuman situation of this farcical trial, he stated: "The sentences which have just been asked for against these militants are irrefutable proof of the true nature of the present regime and of the policy it will follow with respect to democratic organisations and militants. In fact nothing has changed since the death of Franco."

Other Trials

The trial of Salvador Torres Cloquell is set for April 22. He is accused of belonging to CPS(M-L). The prosecution has asked for a sentence of 14 years. It should be stressed that Salvador Torres was accused of having taken part in the attack against a Guardia Civil of the prison of Valencia. His photo appeared in the newspapers and on television, but he had already been in prison for 1½ months. In spite of the tortures by the DGS of Valencia, Salvador Torres has denied all responsibility in the acts of which he is accused.

The following were accused of being members of CPS(M-L) and sentenced to prison: Juan Ricardo Ferragut, 4 years, 2 months; Jose Carlos Pobes Condon, Carlos Lazaro del Rio, Felipe Moreno Martin and Juan Espada Guallar, 3 years each. They are all from Valencia.

Six members of ETA were sentenced to prison: 15 years for Jose Berasetegui Azpiola, Jose Luis Zuait Lasa and Miguel Angel Amilibia Urcelay; 12 years and a day for Jesus Aztiria Plazaola; 3 years for Jose Maria Querejeta Aldalur and Jose Maria Bosque Ruiz.

Four other persons in Madrid were accused of being members of FRAP. They are Maria de la Paz Pineiro Outeiral sentenced to 3 years, five months and 2 days in prison; Francisco Javier Martin Herreros, 3 years; Jose Luis Moreno Marin, 1 year and a fine of 10,000 pesetas, as well as Maria Victoria Moreno Sorli.

Two members of ETA were sentenced to prison: Santiago Iparraguirre Inchaurrondo, and Ana Maria Gurruchaga Calavia to 3 years, 6 months and 26 days and 3 years respectively.

The Supreme Court, for its part, has confirmed the sentences imposed on 7 inhabitants of Valladolid, accused of being members of CPS(M-L). Their sentences total 25 years in prison.

Eye-Witness Reports from the Monarchist Prisons

The facts which we are reproducing below have been gathered by members of the Revolutionary Anti-fascist and Patriotic Front (FRAP) who are prisoners in Carabanchel prison in Madrid.

Ismael Alonso Abad: Construction worker, 21 years of age. Arrested on February 11, 1973, in Madrid, in the area of Bravo Murillo, where a demonstration called by FRAP had taken place. He has been in prison since that time. Tried on November 1975, he was sentenced to 5 years in prison. As he was accused of terrorism, he did not benefit from the "amnesty". The trial was characterised by a total lack of proof against Ismael Alonso who was convicted solely on the evidence of a member of the Politico-Social Brigade who was present at the demonstration.

Guillermo Perez Martinez: Student, 25 years old. Arrested last October 17th by 4 policemen with pistols in their hands. Taken to the DGS, but without being formally admitted, he was subjected right from the beginning to blows and torture on the soles of the feet, on the buttocks and the genitals, with interrogation sessions lasting up to 6 hours. On October 25th, he was taken to Carabanchel and held completely incommunicado in solitary confinement. In the prison itself the judge took down his statement and then declared him incommunicado for 50 days. After new interrogations, the shameful state of incommunicado was lifted and Gullermo was able to see his lawyer, but not his family because the judge applied the "anti-terrorist" decree and placed him incommunicado for another month.

Felipe Moreno Martinez: Technician, 29 years old. Arrested in Segovia on Oct. 13, 1975 by 6 members of the BPS. While being transported to the DGS in Madrid he was beaten and threatened with death. Once at the DGS (he was not formally admitted) he was interrogated and tortured by Roberto Conesa, chief commissar of the Central Brigade. He stayed there 13 days, constantly being tortured, and on October 25 he was transferred with Perez Martinez to Carabanchel prison. He was held incommunicado for 50 days in the same conditions as his comrade, without being able to change his clothes or name a lawyer. He was even refused toilet paper. As "anti-terrorist" proceedings were not started against him, his trial was held according to "ordinary" proceedings, but he was held incommunicado until Dec. 14, until the visit of the military judge — new and exhausting interrogation. The judge wanted to get him to admit to things even the BPS had not accused him of.

After he was no longer incommunicado, he and Perez Martinez were taken to Cell block 6 of Carabanchel Prison, which is a prison within the prison, where the prisoners are locked up 18 hours a day, an "invention" of the prison director Antonio Rodriguez Alonso.

The present legal situation of Felipe Moreno Martinez and the charges are the same as for Guillermo Perez Martinez. For them and for others, the coronation of Juan Carlos only aggravated their situation.

Consequences of Life in the Prisons of Juan Carlos

Antonio Duran Velasco, 38 years old: After his arrest, he suffered several hemorrhages in his left eye and he is now almost blind in that eye, with the danger of total blindness. Until August 1975, when he was examined by the Ophthamology department of the Hospital Clinic of Madrid, he had received no treatment while waiting permission from the military authorities to be transferred to the Prison Hospital. At present he is in that hospital and his condition is stable.

Sabino Arana Bilbao: In prison since March 9, 1968. In recent years he has been suffering on the left side of his chest and the prison doctor has diagnosed renal tuberculosis. He was recently transferred by ambulance from Cadiz to Madrid because it was thought necessary to perform a kidney operation.

Gregorio Lopez Irazegui: After his arrest on January 5, 1969, he began suffering an infection in the left ear which spread to the right ear. Recently he was taken to the Madrid Prison Hospital where he was told that he would slowly become deaf and that nothing could be done for him. It is possible that he will be transferred to the prison of Puerto de Santa Maria. According to information his wife has obtained, he must receive a hearing aid, but nothing has been done as of yet.

The Situation in the Model Prison of Barcelona

Here are the conditions of the political prisoners (from our correspondent):

"We are divided into three blocks, prisoners of FRAP, of ETA, several of FAC, anarchists etc...

"The largest number of FRAP prisoners are in cell-block five... There is a multiple lock, a safety box system at the door and on top of this the discrimination of being separated into different blocks. We have no mess-hall, nor meeting room. We spend the whole day in the courtyard (where you either freeze or die of the heat). We have to line up and march under the surveillance of three guards... and let's not even mention the damp cells with their bugs and even mice. All this would not be possible if it were not for the sadistic guards who fight over who can hit the prisoners the hardest."

Families of Political Prisoners Turn to Public Opinion

The families of several Catalan political prisoners analysed, in a letter addressed to public opinion, the insult which the "grace of Juan Carlos" represents and took up the defense especially of political prisoners accused of "terrorism", denounced the aggravation of their situation and demanded immediate changes in the prison regime and the replacement of the present leading prison officials. The letter read in part: "...amnesty must be extended to all political prisoners and it will not be truly effective unless political liberties are also guaranteed...we therefore demand that the struggle for amnesty be intensified, not only by means of petitions, because they can easily be rejected, but also by actions which force positve measures".

The Prisons are Full

The number of political prisoners in Spain can be estimated now at about 2000.

A People Whom Nothing Can Enslave

Repression can have no effect on a resolute people knowing what it wants. As evidence of the indomitable will of the political prisoners, of all those who are suffering under monarchic repression, we are reproducing the following paragraph from a "Message of the correspondant in the Barcelona Model Prison to the **Militant's Tribune** of **Vanguardia Obrera"**, organ of CPS(M-L).

"Comrades and friends, fascism puts on a lot of locks, builds a lot of walls, tortures and murders us, but never, never will it enslave us. We, prisoners of OSO, of FRAP and of the Party, we will not submit, we will never collaborate with the prison officials. Our morale is good, very good. The cries of the people reach us even here, even if they censure for us the official newspapers, even if they prevent us from communicating with our families and our lawyers; there is no jailer who can take away the ideals for which we are prisoners, for which soon — because soon the people's struggle will free us from prison — we will be with you and we will make short work of all these murderers. Immediate freedom for all political prisoners!"

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